

## Community Presbyterian to open DIAPER Ministry next Wednesday at church

Written by Janna Ross

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It's been a little over a year and the time is finally here. Next Wednesday, February 18, is the day the Morning Circle members of Community Presbyterian Church have been dreaming of. The doors for the church's new diaper ministry, The DIAPER (Diapering Infants and Providing Emergency Resources) Project will open to the public for the very first time from 1 to 4 p.m.

The DIAPER Project, a member of the National Diaper Bank Network, will offer diapers, wipes and some baby food for local families in need and is partially funded by the Presbytery of the Ohio Valley.

"We will always guarantee diapers, wipes and some baby food," stated Donna Bowen, DIAPER Project Administrator. "All the other donations will be disbursed as available."

The DIAPER Project will be open at Community Presbyterian Church located at 1370 Monroe Street in Charlestown on Wednesdays from 1 to 4 p.m.

"If the need arises, we will consider being open more hours to meet the needs of our community," Bowen said.

A visitor to The DIAPER Project will need to bring: proof of address, the child's birth certificate and a photo ID. One will be able to find help at The DIAPER Project once a month.

"This ministry is a help, not support," Bowen explained. The goal of the ministry is to be a supplement for those who may need a little extra help providing diapers, wipes and a little baby food for their child within the month.

The idea of The DIAPER Project came to the women of The Morning Circle last year. The need for a local diaper ministry was evident to the women of the group.

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“Wearing a soiled diaper for too long jeopardizes a baby’s health. Daycare requires each baby to have a full day’s supply of diapers or they are turned away. Obviously parents need access to child care. One out of three families in America struggle to buy diapers,” Bowen added. “Food stamps and WIC cannot be used to buy diapers and most coin laundry mats don’t allow cloth diapers. According to statistics, 5.9 million babies are living in low-income families across America. The statistics prove a need for the ministry.”

While organizing this new ministry for Community Presbyterian Church, Bowen was asked about adult diapers. Adults seeking adult diapers will not need to bring a birth certificate but will need to bring proof of address.

“Adult diapers will not be guaranteed but will be dispersed when available,” Bowen added.

Volunteers are also welcome. According to Bowen, volunteers do not have to be a member of Community Presbyterian Church to volunteer for The DIAPER Project Ministry. If you would like to volunteer please contact Donna Bowen at 812-256-5428.

Donations may still be made to The DIAPER Project. If your church group or organization would like to help with a diaper drive, make a donation or need more information please contact Donna Bowen at 812-256-5428.